

made the advances, not I; they knew that I was not coming back to Europe, that I would never see them again, or try in any way to keep up relations with them; and so they felt free to treat us with an intimacy, and on a footing of equality, which would have been impossible with a European, the subject of some one of them (I think this was why they asked us to stay in the palaces).

In a way, although the comparison sounds odd, these sovereigns, in their relations among themselves and with others, reminded me of the officers and their wives in one of our western army posts in the old days, when they were all shut up together and away from the rest of the world, were sundered by an impassable gulf from the enlisted men and the few scouts, hunters, and settlers around about, and were knit together into one social whole, and nevertheless were riven asunder by bitter jealousies, rivalries, and dislikes. Well, the feelings between a given queen and a given dowager-empress, or a small king and the emperor who on some occasion had relished bullying him, were precisely the same as those between the captain's lady and the colonel's spinster daughter, or the sporting lieutenant and the martinet major, in a lonely army post.

As we traveled, we found that the royalties at one court were almost sure to have written to their kinsfolk at the next court (for they are all interrelated) things about us, just exactly as people would write from one army post to another in the old days. They were always sure to wish to hear from me about some of the things that I

had done
while I was President, especially the building of
the Panama
Canal, the voyage of the battle fleet, the
handling of the
coal strike, and various matters concerning
the control of
the trusts and the control of the mob, and the
relations of
both with Socialism; and they were at least as
anxious to
hear about my regiment, and especially about
my life in the
"West, evidently regarding it as an
opportunity to acquire
knowledge at first-hand and at close range
concerning the
Buffalo-Bill and Wild-West side of American
existence.

Most of them had obviously read up my
writings for the